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Thailand

Cotton and Products Annual

2014

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Report Highlights:

TH4029 – Cotton imports in MY2013/14 are likely to fall due to the stagnant domestic economy. Higher spinning activity in MY2014/15 could increase import demand for raw cotton to 1.6 - 1.7 million bales.

Executive Summary:

Cotton imports in Marketing Year (MY) 2012/13 increased 19 percent to 1.5 million bales as spinning mills experienced greater demand for cotton yarn and the Thai economy improved. The production of cotton yarn increased 16 percent from the previous year driven by strong demand from China. The production of cotton fabric also increased around 8 percent due to a significant increase in the exports of cotton fabric to neighboring countries where large Thai garment manufacturers relocated to. Although exports of cotton yarn and fabric will likely continue trending upward in MY2013/14 and MY2014/15, the political turmoil in Thailand may undermine the recovery of the spinning mills. Cotton-fiber spinners have already cut their capacity utilization rate to around 60 percent in the first quarter of 2014 compared to last year's utilization rates of 60-70 percent. Consequently, the import growth of raw cotton in MY2013/14 will likely decelerate to approximately 3 percent from the previous year. In MY2014/15 spinning capacity is likely to return to normal averages of 70-80 percent in anticipation of economic and political recoveries. Thus, cotton imports are forecast to increase to 1.6 – 1.7 million bales.

Commodities:

Cotton

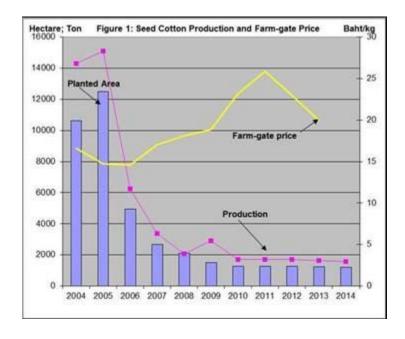
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Section 1: Situation and Outlook for Upland and Value-Added Cotton

1. Production

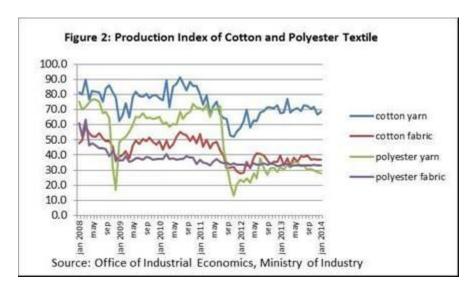
Cotton production in Thailand remains stable at approximately 1,500 to 1,600 metric tons (2,300 - 2,500 bales – Figure 1). This production accounts for less than one percent of total demand due to limited acreage of around 7,000 to 8,000 rai (1,120 - 1,280 hectares). Thai farmers prefer cultivating competing crops like corn, cassava, and sugar due to the relatively higher returns they receive compared to cotton. The government still bans the use of transgenic plants and there is no domestic support program for cotton farmers.

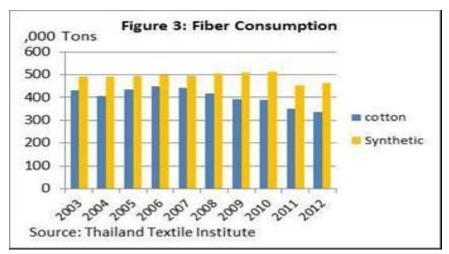
Overall, cotton yarn production increased 16 percent from the previous year (Figure 2). In addition, cotton fabric production increased 7 to 8 percent due to strong exports of cotton fabric to neighboring countries. Large Thai garment manufacturers reportedly relocated to neighboring countries (i.e., Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) as a result of new laws that increased the minimum wage to 300 baht per day (\$9.38/day) from 150-25 baht per day (\$5-8/day). The new policy went into effect in January 2013. Labor costs are 4 to 5 times lower in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos and they receive duty-free trade privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) afforded to them by developed countries. The Thai Garment Manufacturers Association reported that 23 large exportoriented garment manufacturers, which account for around half of the large-scale garment manufacturers, have gradually relocated to their operations to other countries since 2012.



2. Consumption

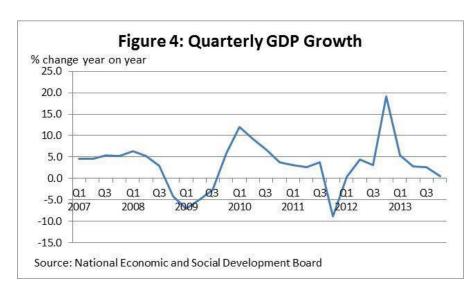
MY2012/13 cotton consumption was higher than expected at 1.54 million bales, up 16 to 17 percent from the previous year due to the strong recovery of spinning mills. The uptick in consumption was driven by robust exports of cotton yarn and fabric. Spinners increased their capacity utilization to an average of 60 to 70 percent compared to an average of 53 percent in the previous year. The market share of cotton-fiber consumption also increased approximately 45 percent compared to 42 percent in 2012 (Figure 3). The increase was driven by strong exports of cotton yarn to China. Domestic sales of cotton yarn also increased around 6 percent from the previous year.

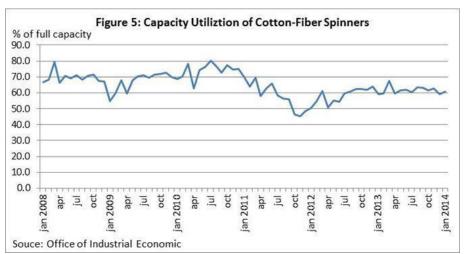




Cotton consumption in MY2013/14 growth is likely to slow down to around 2 percent from the previous year due the slowdown of the domestic economy. The average quarterly GDP growth has already slowed to around 1.7 percent in the first half of MY2013/14, compared to an average of 7 percent in MY2012/13 (Figure 4). Accordingly, the Bank of Thailand has revised down Thailand's 2014 economic growth forecast to 2.7 percent. GDP growth is expected to remain stagnant in MY2013/14. As a result of the stagnant economy, cotton-fiber spinning mills have cut their capacity utilization to 60 percent, compared to 60-70 percent in the previous marketing year, mainly due to a reduction in domestic sales (Figure 5). In the first half of MY2013/14, both cotton-fiber and polyester-fiber yarn

production declined slightly to 0.3 and 0.6 percent from the same period last year. Domestic sales of cotton-fiber yarn also declined around 3 percent from the same period last year. However, cotton yarn exports increased by 54 percent from the same period last year, particularly to China. Exports of cotton yarn and fabric, which account for around 30 percent of total yarn and fabric production, will likely continue to grow in the latter half of MY2013/14 due to strong global economic growth. Cotton fabric exports are also likely to continue its upward trend, particularly to neighboring countries in 2014.

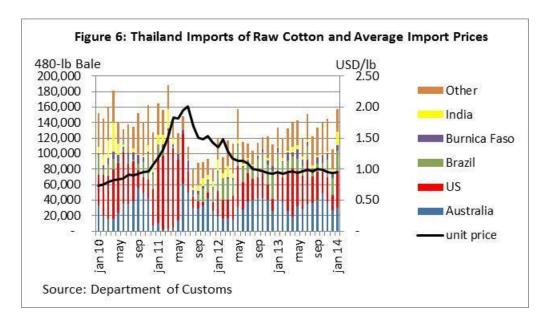




MY2014/15 cotton consumption will likely increase 5 percent from the previous year in anticipation of higher utilization by spinning mills and a recovery of the Thai economy. Spinners are expected to return to their normal capacity utilization rates of 70-80 percent driven by a recovery of the domestic and global economies. Accordingly, the proportion of cotton fiber consumption is likely to increase to approximately 47 percent.

3. Trade

MY2012/13 cotton imports increased significantly to 1.5 million bales, up 19.5 percent from the previous year as spinning mills recovered from low demand in the previous year (Table 2). The demand for imported cotton was driven by strong demand for cotton yarn and fabric. In addition, world cotton prices returned to normal levels resulting in a drop in the average import price of cotton to \$0.96/lb., down approximately 30 percent from the previous year (Figure 6). Imports of U.S. cotton increased to 446,398 bales, up 58 percent from the previous year as spinners reduced their large inventories of cotton yarn. Thai cotton yarn exports doubled in MY2012/13, particularly to China, which accounted for 60 to 70 percent of total cotton yarn exports (Table 8). Cotton fabric exports also increased significantly to Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos where Thai garment manufacturers relocated (Table 11).



MY2013/14 cotton imports are revised down to 1.5-1.6 million bales which is expected to increase only 3 percent from the previous year due to the slower Thai economy. In the first half of the marketing year, cotton imports increased by 14 percent. However, overall imports will likely be offset by the worsening domestic economy in the second half of the year. Despite the stable world cotton prices, cotton-fiber spinners are reportedly being more cautious in their purchasing decisions and they have already reduced their capacity utilization rates due to the concerns over the current political situation. Nonetheless, imports of U.S. cotton will likely increase slightly to 450,000 bales, which account for around 28 to 29 percent of total raw cotton imports, due to tight Australian and Brazilian cotton supplies.

MY2014/15 cotton imports are forecast to increase to 1.6 - 1.7 million bales, as spinners will likely recover from the domestic economic downturn. U.S. cotton imports are also likely to increase to approximately 500,000 bales as spinners prefer the higher quality fiber to ensure yarn quality, particularly for superior medium-count yarn.

4. Stocks

MY2012/13 cotton stocks declined 19 percent as the spinning mills utilized more of their inventories. Overall capacity utilization for cotton yarn production increased due to strong international demand for cotton yarn products, particularly from China.

Cotton stocks will likely continue to fall as spinners capitalize on export demand. In the first half of MY2013/14, cotton yarn stocks dropped 20 percent from the same period last year. However, the decline in stocks is likely to taper off in the latter part of the year due to the uncertainty of the economy and political situation.

MY2014/15 cotton stocks are forecast to decline in anticipation of a full recovery of the spinning mills. Spinning utilization rates will likely return to the normal average of 70-80 percent driven by the recovery of the domestic economy in the latter half of the year.

Section 2: Statistical Tables

Table 1: Thailand's Co	tton Froduction, St	ippiy and D	emand	y			y		
Cotton Thailand		2012/2013		2	2013/2014	l	2014/	2015	
	Market Y	ear Begin: A	ug 2012	Market Year Begin: Aug 2013			Market Year 20		
	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Planted	0	1	1	0	1	1		1	(1000 HA)
Area Harvested	1 1	1		1	1	1		1	(1000 HA)
Beginning Stocks	261	250	261	268	226	203		168	1000 480 lb. Bales
Production	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	1000 480 lb. Bales
Imports	1,511	1,500	1,511	1,650	1,600	1,560		1,670	1000 480 lb. Bales
MY Imports from U.S.	1 0	350	446	0	370	450		500	1000 480 lb. Bales
Total Supply	1,774	1,752	1,774	1,920	1,828	1,765	Î	1,840	1000 480 lb. Bales
Exports	6	1	6	5	2	2		5	1000 480 lb. Bales
Use	1,475	1,500	1,540	1,600	1,600	1,570		1,650	1000 480 lb. Bales
Loss	25	25	25	25	25	25		25	1000 480 lb. Bales
Total Dom. Cons.	1,500	1,525	1,565	1,625	1,625	1,595		1,675	1000 480 lb. Bales
Ending Stocks	268	226	203	290	201	168		160	1000 480 lb. Bales
Total Distribution	1,774	1,752	1,774	1,920	1,828	1,765		1,840	1000 480 lb. Bales
Stock to Use %	18	15	13	18	13	11		10	(PERCENT)
Yield	435.	435.	435.	435.	435.	435.		435.	(KG/HA)

Table 2. Thailand's Imports of Raw Cotton in 480-lb Bales (Marketing Year: August/July)

85	MY2010/11	MY2011/12	MY2012/13		Aug Jan.	
		N/		MY2012/13	MY2013/14	% Change
United States	735,987	282,144	446,398	156,001	197,746	26.8
Australia	336,590	325,603	409,080	232,318	219,850	-5.4
Brazil	120,995	228,095	246,196	150,583	95,941	-36.3
India	89,227	85,954	34,221	7,105	30,206	325.2
Burkina Faso	69,114	23,974	74,522	31,396	48,883	55.7
Tanzania	54,031	16,913	20,743	7,910	23,304	194.6
Cote d Ivoire	43,833	21,990	26,422	10,218	27,540	169.5
Zimbabwe	55,323	45,765	34,376	15,234	12,374	-18.8
Mali	36,547	20,730	29,783	8,056	39,587	391.4
Oth er	209,969	212,197	189,059	86,588	107,320	23.9
World	1,751,616	1,263,364	1,510,799	705,408	802,750	13.8

Table 3. Thailand's Imports of Raw Cotton in Metric Tons (Marketing Year: August/July)

02	MY2010/11	MY2011/12	MY2012/13		Aug Jan.	
				MY2012/13	MY2013/14	% Change
United States	160,244	61,430	97,193	33,966	43,054	26.8
Australia	73,285	70,892	89,068	50,582	47,867	-5.4
Brazil	26,344	49,662	53,604	32,786	20,889	-36.3
India	19,427	18,714	7,451	1,547	6,577	325.2
Burkina Faso	15,048	5,220	16,225	6,836	10,643	55.7
Tanzania	11,764	3,682	4,516	1,722	5,074	194.6
Cote d Ivoire	9,544	4,788	5,753	2,225	5,996	169.5
Zimbabwe	12,045	9,964	7,485	3,317	2,694	-18.8
Mali	7,957	4,513	6,484	1,754	8,619	391.4
Oth er	45,716	46,201	41,163	18,852	23,366	23.9
World	381,373	275,068	328,941	153,586	174,780	13.8

	2011	Ĺ	2	012	2013		% c	hange
	,000 US\$	480-lb Bales	,000 USS	480-lb Bales	,000 US\$	480-lbBales	,000 US\$	480-lb Bales
United States	486,617	617,834	200,972	356,566	225,993	476,382	12.5	33.6
Australia	264,544	305,603	198,530	356,036	188,417	406,835	-5.1	14.3
Brazil	69,391	98,530	171,411	290,097	90,634	190,218	-47.1	-34.4
Burkina Faso	42,687	54,784	15,234	32,341	40,593	91,996	166.5	184.5
M ali	30,117	38,741	6,523	12,346	28,040	61,977	329.8	402.0
India	57,950	92,639	25,547	58,000	18,109	40,917	-29.1	-29.5
Cote d Ivoire	15,685	20,809	10,232	21,102	17,040	39,257	66.5	86.0
Tanzania	8,488	14,738	6,326	14,058	14,667	34,251	131.8	143.6
Zimbabwe	27,950	44,787	24,301	41,609	14,205	31,884	-41.5	-23.4
Nigeria	8,407	11,102	9,687	26,153	11,434	27,349	18.0	4.6
Pakistan	19,595	35,707	26,134	71,052	7,427	18,441	-71.6	-74.0
Argentina	12,851	21,456	9,773	25,420	7,197	17,972	-26.4	-29.3
M ozambique	6,621	13,704	3,653	7,802	6,883	16,135	88.4	106.8
Benin	11,547	15,682	4,103	7,958	6,113	13,929	49.0	75.0
Other	61,471	80,118	41,152	83,828	55,560	116,685	35.0	39.2
W orld	1,123,922	1,466,236	753,581	1,404,366	732,311	1,584,226	-2.8	12.8

	2011		20	012	20	013	% ch	ange
	,000 USS	Metic Ton	,000 USS	Metic Ton	,000 USS	Metic Ton	,000 USS	Metic Ton
United States	486,617	134,519	200,972	77,634	225,993	103,721	12.5	33.6
Australia	264,544	66,538	198,530	77,518	188,417	88,579	-5.1	14.3
Brazil	69,391	21,453	171,411	63,162	90,634	41,415	-47.1	-34.4
Burkina Faso	42,687	11,928	15,234	7,042	40,593	20,030	166.5	184.5
Mali	30,117	8,435	6,523	2,688	28,040	13,494	329.8	402.0
India	57,950	20,170	25,547	12,628	18,109	8,909	-29.1	-29.5
Cote d Ivoire	15,685	4,531	10,232	4,594	17,040	8,547	66.5	86.0
Tanzania	8,488	3,209	6,326	3,061	14,667	7,457	131.8	143.6
Zimbabwe	27,950	9,751	24,301	9,059	14,205	6,942	-41.5	-23.4
Nigeria	8,407	2,417	9,687	5,694	11,434	5,955	18.0	4.6
Pakistan	19,595	7,774	26,134	15,470	7,427	4,015	-71.6	-74.0
Argentina	12,851	4,672	9,773	5,535	7,197	3,913	-26.4	-29.3
Mozambique	6,621	2,984	3,653	1,699	6,883	3,513	88.4	106.8
Benin	11,547	3,414	4,103	1,733	6,113	3,033	49.0	75.0
Other	61,471	17,444	41,152	18,252	55,560	25,405	35.0	39.2
World	1,123,922	319,239	753,581	305,768	732,311	344,928	-2.8	12.8

			Ca	lendar Year		- 1	
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Employment							
- Synthetic fiber	14,300	14,280	14,100	14,000	14,300	13,300	12,300
- Spinning	59,980	60,550	60,300	60,075	60,040	57,200	57,010
- Weaving	54,470	53,980	52,770	51,980	51,890	52,160	52,310
- Knitting	62,860	63,320	63,050	62,420	61,790	62,400	62,580
- Dyeing and Printing	46,850	46,630	46,200	45,880	43,860	41,940	41,580
- Clothing	824,500	818,530	812,800	810,850	808,690	795,880	685,000
TOTAL	1,062,960	1,057,290	1,049,220	1,045,205	1,040,570	1,022,880	910,780
Number of Textile Machinery							
- Spinning (No. of spindles)	3,858,790	3,879,750	3,875,600	3,779,210	3,669,613	3,770,550	3,700,860
- Weaving (No. of looms)	130,132	129,770	129,100	128,300	130,230	131,740	132,200
- Knitting (No. of machines)	121,355	122,394	123,620	123,080	118,150	118,490	119,200
- Clothing (No. of machines)	751,760	749,100	748,490	737,875	736,000	724,250	623,350

			C	al endar Year	-	- 4	
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Production(TMI)							
Cotton yam	403.9	397.8	376.7	353.8	351.1	315.9	303.8
Synthetic yarn	603.6	565.1	587.1	614.0	626.1	493.0	502.3
Total production	1007.5	962.9	963.8	967.8	977.2	808.9	806.1
Consumption(TMT)							
Cotton yam	369.8	349.3	331.6	306.2	308.7	288.7	273.9
Synthetic yarn	427.0	414.0	439.7	441.6	445.2	395.8	423.8
Total consumption	796.8	763.3	771.3	747.8	753.9	684.5	697.7

Table 8: Thailand's Exports of Cotton Yarn (Calendar Year: January - December)

	20	11	2	012	2	013	% C	hange
	,000 USS	Metric Ton						
China	46,472	11,468	59,335	19,731	121,546	42,115	104.8	113.4
Japan	29,789	3,842	27,747	3,735	27,322	4,850	-1.5	29.9
Korea South	8,295	1,343	7,454	1,721	14,217	3,735	90.7	117.0
Sri Lanka	3,056	541	3,892	878	8,546	1,979	119.6	125.5
Malaysia	13,723	2,502	6,454	1,587	7,784	1,822	20.6	14.8
Hong Kong	9,070	1,613	4,735	1,189	5,590	1,575	18.1	32.5
Turkey	4,216	681	3,461	725	5,010	1,030	44.7	42.0
Bangladesh	5,065	1,060	3,941	1,533	4,526	1,389	14.8	-9.4
United States	3,428	666	2,410	529	4,460	1,055	85.1	99.4
Italy	3,443	645	836	206	3,174	723	279.6	250.8
Philippines	1,904	445	1,582	439	2,891	794	82.7	80.6
Vietnam	1,940	230	1,251	176	1,812	290	44.8	65.1
Germany	2,381	277	1,193	167	1,401	197	17.4	17.5
Egypt	1,394	227	1,107	252	1,272	304	14.9	20.4
India	305	40	882	230	1,202	307	36.2	33.4
Portugal	2,047	351	158	38	1,199	262	660.6	587.9
Indonesia	1,042	172	837	128	1,177	184	40.7	44.0
Taiwan	802	135	20	3	760	468	3,698.2	17,560.0
Pakistan	1,596	266	12	2	721	196	6,130.8	8,968.7
Other	13,467	2,487	3,387	638	2,886	546	-14.8	-14.5
World	153,435	28,992	130,693	33,908	217,495	63,821	66.4	88.2

Source: Department of Customs

Table 9: Thailand's Imports of Cotton Yarn (Calendar Year: January - December)

3)	20	11	20	012	2	013	% C	hange
	,000 US\$	Metric Ton	,000 USS	Metric Ton	,000 USS	Metric Ton	,000 US\$	Metric Ton
China	23,462	2,992	26,149	3,839	27,805	3,657	6.3	-4.7
India	10,986	2,206	11,317	3,001	15,749	3,848	39.2	28.2
Japan	3,490	579	3,635	765	3,646	867	0.3	13.4
In don esia	1,220	259	1,761	367	3,257	611	85.0	66.4
Egypt	1,391	190	2,528	448	2,455	412	-2.9	-8.1
Pakistan	10,414	2,508	8,086	2,731	2,425	845	-70.0	-69.0
Vietnam	21,608	4,985	9,361	2,873	2,294	624	-75.5	-78.3
Thailand	305	62	243	46	875	162	259.6	255.7
Italy	265	5	416	14	449	16	8.0	17.5
Taiwan	540	81	416	57	424	50	1.9	-12.0
Hong Kong	285	26	1,443	100	208	15	-85.6	-84.9
Other	2,040	336	1,114	135	608	57	-45.4	-57.7
World	76,008	14,227	66,469	14,375	60,195	11,166	-9.4	-22.3

		Calendar Year									
0	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				
Production (TMT)											
Cotton fabric	234.8	220.8	209.4	192.4	197.9	185.6	176.0				
Synthetic fabric	271.0	261.7	227.6	277.5	285.4	254.5	272.7				
Total production	505.8	482.5	437.0	469.9	483.3	440.1	448.7				
Consumption (TMT)							N. N. N. N. N. N. N. N. N.				
Cotton fabric	224.1	205.8	204.6	173.6	189.0	177.5	170.4				
Synthetic fabric	249.2	238.3	264.1	262.7	272.5	252.5	294.1				
Total consumption	473.3	444.1	468.7	436.3	461.5	430.0	464.5				

Table 11: Thailand's Exports of Cotton Fabric (Calendar Year: Januray - December)

	20	11	20	12	20	13	% (hange
	,000 US\$	Metric Ton	,000 US\$	Metric Ton	,000 US\$	Metric Ton	,000 USS	Metric Ton
Myanmar	42,025	4,539	55,925	6,539	65,046	7,728	16.3	18.2
Bangladesh	48,393	6,433	42,581	6,024	46,070	6,705	8.2	11.3
Vietnam	39,687	3,271	29,364	2,855	44,501	4,466	51.6	56.4
Niger	11,120	1,200	25,233	2,712	25,477	2,876	1.0	6.0
Japan	15,672	1,549	13,153	1,545	18,412	2,577	40.0	66.8
Cambodia	10,327	1,166	13,381	1,531	18,384	2,225	37.4	45.3
Netherlands	15,631	1,141	12,872	1,058	14,965	1,261	16.3	19.2
United States	11,483	1,294	10,865	1,464	12,192	1,765	12.2	20.6
Laos	13,670	1,278	11,436	1,245	11,116	1,073	-2.8	-13.8
Benin	10,620	987	7,281	738	9,883	1,105	35.7	49.8
United Arab Emirates	11,379	840	10,652	769	9,688	717	-9.0	-6.8
Germany	11,667	1,450	7,517	1,281	9,520	1,563	26.7	22.0
Turkey	11,548	1,457	6,921	1,072	8,927	1,264	29.0	17.9
Korea South	1,357	261	5,644	1,446	8,770	1,942	55.4	34.2
Other	159,919	15,326	112,075	11,097	94,289	10,016	-15.9	-9.7
World	414,498	42,190	364,900	41,376	397,240	47,284	8.9	14.3

Table 12: Thailand's Imports of Cotton Fabrics (Calendar Year: Januray - December)

	20	11	2	012	2	013	% (Change
	,000 US\$	Metric Ton						
China	194,484	31,771	155,525	34,213	137,536	30,268	-11.6	-11.5
India	17,773	2,194	18,403	2,372	9,818	1,560	-46.7	-34.3
Japan	11,234	1,219	8,748	958	7,109	766	-18.7	-20.0
Indonesia	9,104	918	4,282	631	4,619	580	7.9	-8.1
Italy	3,697	67	3,217	62	4,273	92	32.8	48.4
Taiwan	7,320	322	4,683	222	3,226	175	-31.1	-21.3
Hong Kong	3,820	423	3,268	306	2,618	215	-19.9	-29.6
Pakistan	3,211	634	2,555	587	2,554	583	0.0	-0.8
Turkey	1,774	60	1,732	73	1,614	70	-6.8	4.7
Korea South	1,053	261	1,005	94	1,056	81	5.2	-13.7
United Kingdom	1,035	56	894	70	905	32	1.2	-53.6
Germany	682	31	810	29	739	45	-8.7	54.8
M alay sia	77	10	92	4	532	23	477.7	487.5
Other	5,723	329	3,782	255	3,365	332	-11.0	30.4
World	260,988	38,295	208,996	39,875	179,965	34,821	-13.9	-12.7

Source: Department of Customs

	Current calculated	Current tariff applied	Tariff Schedule
	tariff for non-AFTA	for AFTA countries	Commitment with
	countries	under CFPT scheme ^{1/}	WTO
	(% Ad Valorem)	(% Ad Valorem)	(% Ad Valorem)
Raw cotton	0	0	4.5
Cotton yarn	5	0	15.0
Cotton fabric	5	0	30.0
Chemical used in textile	5	0	30.0
Textile machanery	1	0	20.0

^{1/} CFPT = Common Effective Preferential Tariff, an agreed effective tariff, preferential to ASEAN countries, to be applied to goods originating from ASEAN Member States and which have been identified for inclusion in the CFPT Scheme.

End of report.